



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767

Telephone 512/854-9400

Telefax 512/854-4206

JOSÉ P. GARZA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TRUDY STRASSBURGER
FIRST ASSISTANT

Travis County District Attorney Releases Information on Cases of Potential Law Enforcement Misconduct

Two 2021 Officer-Involved Shooting Cases to Be Presented to Grand Jury

*Ramos and Ambler Cases to Be Presented Before the Expiration of the Current Grand Jury Term in
March*

AUSTIN, TX -- Today, Travis County District Attorney José Garza released detailed information on the status of every case pending in the Office's Civil Rights Unit. The information released includes the date of the incident; a summary of the facts known to the office; the status of the case within the office; and when possible, the name of the complainant or decedent, the name of the officer or officers, and a timeline for presenting the case to the grand jury.

Additionally, District Attorney Garza released details about two officer-involved shootings that took place in the first week of 2021. He disclosed that his Office's prosecutors responded to the scene within hours of the incident occurring and are actively investigating the incidents. In keeping with policy, the Office will present both cases to the grand jury.

"Already this year, there have been two officer-involved shootings. In total, two people were injured, and Alexander Gonzales was killed. It is a tragedy for our community, and I would like to express my sympathies to the family of Mr. Gonzales, and to everyone who has been affected," said José Garza, Travis County District Attorney. "Our community has been clear that when law enforcement officers use deadly force, prosecutors must investigate the case quickly and with transparency, to ensure that no one is above the law."

In September of 2020, then-District Attorney Margaret Moore announced that the office would defer the presentation of two officer-involved shooting incidents, one involving Michael Ramos and the other involving Javier Ambler, to a Travis County grand jury until District Attorney Garza assumed leadership of the Office. District Attorney Garza announced his intent to present both Mr. Ambler's and Mr. Ramos's case to a Travis County Grand Jury prior to the expiration of its term on March 30, 2021.

In addition to Mr. Ramos' and Mr. Ambler's cases, there are six additional cases involving an officer-involved shooting or death in the custody of a law enforcement officer all of which occurred prior to Garza's tenure as District Attorney. The oldest of these cases dates back to March of 2018 and the

Office will be presenting each of them to a Travis County Grand Jury. District Attorney Garza announced that the Office will be providing a regular status update every 14 days until each has been presented to a grand jury. With the exception of the cases involving Mr. Ambler, Mr. Ramos, and Ms. Zimmerman, the Office plans to present these cases to a grand jury in chronological order of the date of the incident. After the expiration of the current Grand Jury's term in March, the Office will be empaneling additional grand juries to hear these cases. The Office expects that presentation of these cases will begin by June of this year.

"Holding law enforcement accountable when they commit a crime is critical to public trust and confidence in the fair administration of justice," said Dexter Gilford, Civil Rights Division Director. "The Travis County District Attorney's Office is committed to holding accountable those charged with enforcing the law and ensuring public safety when they have violated the law."

###